

6/16

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

COUNTRY	USSR/East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Soviet Army Re-enlistees (Sverkhsrochniki)	DATE DISTR.	29 October 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	8
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	#	AEC							
-------	----	------	----	------	----	-----	----	-----	---	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY USSR/East Germany

DATE DISTR. 15 Sept 1954

SUBJECT Regular Army Enlistees (Sverkhstrochniki)
in the Soviet Army

NO. OF PAGES 7

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

Note: All references to regular army enlistees (sverkhstrochniki) and to privileges extended to them which are listed in this report do not necessarily apply to "sverkhstrochniki" throughout the Soviet Army.

25X1

1. The term "sverkhstrochnik" was applied to Soviet Army soldiers who reenlisted. The majority of them were NCO's.

25X1

one "sverkhstrochnik" who was a private first class
occasionally drawing rations at the GSFG Food Supply Ware
houses in Satzkorn (N 52-27, E 12-59)

The nickname "makaronniki" was applied to the "sverkhstrochniki" by soldiers serving their obligatory term of service, who looked upon the former with disdain. Since macaroni was considered a delicacy in the Soviet Army messhall in comparison with the standard ration of groats, the "sverkhstrochnik" was considered to be one who remained behind for macaroni.

2. Each reenlistment was limited to a two-year term. No EM was reenlisted for a shorter or longer period of time.
3. Any soldier serving in the Soviet Army who was nearing completion of his obligatory term of military service, or who was already on a reenlisted term of service and was nearing its completion could apply to be a "sverkhstrochnik". His acceptance depended upon past service, political background, and the existence of a vacancy. If the applicant's past military service had been excellent and his political background was not doubtful, he would be accepted. If a vacancy did not exist in the unit in which he was serving, an attempt was made to situate him in another unit where he might be able to fit in as a "sverkhstrochnik".

CONFIDENTIAL

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

CONFIDENTIAL
- 2 -

25X1

4. The following prerequisites were necessary for enlistment:
- Honorable service during obligatory term of service or previous reenlisted term of service.
 - Political reliability, with an active interest in Komsomol or Party desirable.
 - A character letter with recommendation from the potential enlistee's platoon leader and higher commanders' approving endorsements.
 - Character letter with recommendations from the unit party or Komsomol secretary (if the applicant was a Komsomol or Party member), stating subject's political attitude and participation in political meetings and lectures. (Note: Membership in the Party or Komsomol was not mandatory, but if a non-member was reenlisted all efforts were made to recruit him as a member. In many instances the non-member was kept under closer surveillance and was constantly criticized until he became a member.)

25X1

5. [redacted] information on "sverkhsrochniki" identification:

- They had special uniform insignia. (See Annex A for a sketch of the insignia.)
- They had a Personal ID Book of "sverkhsrochnik" of the USSR Armed Forces, (see Annex B). This document served as a passport when the bearer was in the USSR and was valid anywhere in the USSR. It was carried at all times.

- [redacted] a permanent pass [redacted] This type of pass was issued to all "sverkhsrochniki" in the unit.

25X1

Enlistment Procedure

25X1

6. [redacted]

7. "sverkhsrochniki" were not permitted to be vehicle drivers because of possible loss of prestige [redacted]. The duties of mechanic in the battalion did not call for a "sverkhsrochnik" [redacted] duties of battalion Food and Clothing Supply Clerk (PFS - Prodovol'stvennofurazhnoye Snabzheniye) that position called for a "Sverkhsrochnik". [redacted]

"Sverkhsrochnik" Positions in the 10th Sep. Gd. Bn.

8. There were three guard companies and two separate platoons in the battalion. [redacted] the following constituted the positions calling for "sverkhsrochniki" [redacted]

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

- 25X1
13. The difference in pay between selectees and enlistees was by far the greatest advantage. [] a private serving his obligatory term of service [] received a total of 30 East German marks per month. [] a "sverkhsrochnik" [] pay was [] 180 East marks and 200 rubles per month. 25X1
- [] "sverkhsrochniki" were paid in accordance with their duty responsibility. [] the Chief Mess Sergeant received 300 East marks and, [] 450 rubles per month.)
14. [] an EM serving his obligatory term of service [] was not entitled to any leave for the entire period of service. In extreme family emergencies, a soldier might have been able to obtain a maximum of 15 days compassionate furlough. [] as a "sverkhsrochnik", he was entitled to 45 days leave per year, the same time as was given to officers. These 45 days were in addition to travel time required to go to the USSR and return. 25X1 25X1 25X1
15. A "sverkhsrochnik" was permitted to purchase and keep liquor in his quarters and to drink after duty hours on post. This privilege was introduced after Stalin's death. A "sverkhsrochnik" who imbibed to the point where he became overly boisterous after duty hours would normally only be summoned before the battalion CO the following morning and reprimanded. However, possession of liquor by a soldier serving his obligatory term of service was a court martial offense.. 25X1
16. [] the "sverkhsrochniki" were not the only EM who could marry. A soldier serving his obligatory term of service also had this privilege. In both instances permission had to be granted by the individual's CO. 25X1
- [] one private and one sergeant who received permission to marry. Both EM were from guard companies. 25X1
- Marriage was permitted only to Russian women serving in the Soviet Army as service women or as civilian employees. Despite the fact that an alleged regulation insured Russians serving abroad the right to marry a foreign national, it was actually meaningless in Germany.
- A "sverkhsrochnik" who married a Russian woman was permitted to live on post in separate quarters with his wife, while a selectee serving his obligatory term of service was permitted only to visit his wife at her dormitory quarters over Saturday night, if he received a pass from his first sergeant. All other days and nights he was compelled to live in his barracks.
17. Political training for "sverkhsrochniki" was conducted separately by the unit Party secretary. [] since regular army enlistees were permitted to visit town after duty hours, there were some subjects discussed that would not apply to soldiers serving obligatory terms. [] the subjects and themes discussed were perhaps more advanced. Normally, not more than five "sverkhsrochniki" attended political training at one time. 25X1 25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 5 -

25X1

18. [] "sverkhsrochniki" were not compelled to participate in any training except political training. [] he did not have to participate in close order drill, physical training, or range firing. 25X1
19. [] for added prestige the "sverkhsrochniki" were permitted to wear the service cap (furazhka) at all times, whereas the soldier serving his obligatory term wore the garrison cap (pilotka) with his everyday cotton uniform. 25X1
20. If a "sverkhsrochnik" was found guilty of misconduct or declared politically unreliable, he would be sent back to the USSR for immediate demobilization. If a conscriptee was found guilty of the same charges, he would be sent back to the USSR but would have to complete his full term of military service there.
- [] in the 10th Sep. 25X1
- Gds. Bn. The EM was a "sverkhsrochnik" who was assigned to guard duty with dogs. When it was found that the dogs were not necessary for guard duty, they were shipped to another unit. Prior to their shipment, the "sverkhsrochnik" took one to keep as a pet. When the theft was discovered the man was sent back to the USSR and demobilized.

Conclusions

21. [] although the pay differences and extra privileges granted to "sverkhsrochniki" certainly appeared to make them a very privileged group, the number of soldiers who enlisted was comparatively small. [] only EM who were not skilled and faced the prospect of returning to a collective farm to face a life of work and drudgery with no compensation preferred to remain in the army. These soldiers were in the minority. The majority of the men dreamed of the day when they would be released from service and wished to remember the army as a bad nightmare. A three-year period was enough for most of them. 25X1

25X1

2 Annexes

- A. Service Chevrons Worn by "Sverkhsrochniki"
- B. Personal ID of "Sverkhsrochnik" of the USSR Armed Forces

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

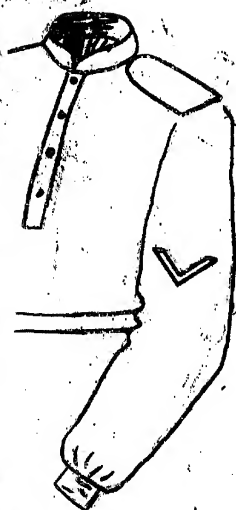
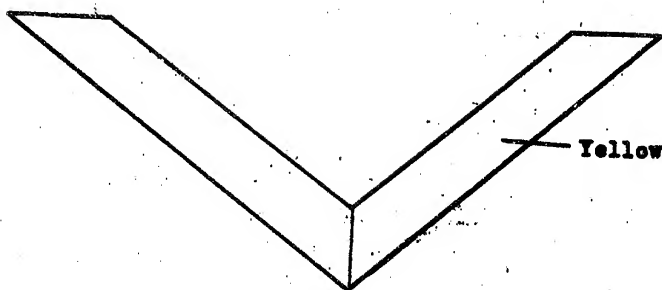
-6-

Annex A

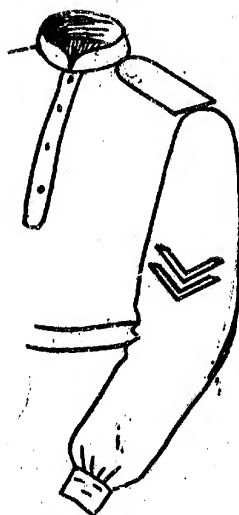
Service Chevrons Worn by "Sverkhstrochniki"

25X1

25X1



First Term



Second Term



Third Term

Notes:

1. The third term chevron was equal in width to two first term chevrons.
2. After the third term, the chevrons were silver-colored. No further information.

CONFIDENTIAL

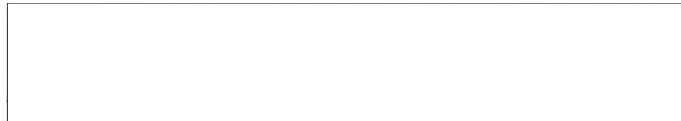
CONFIDENTIAL

-7-

Annex B

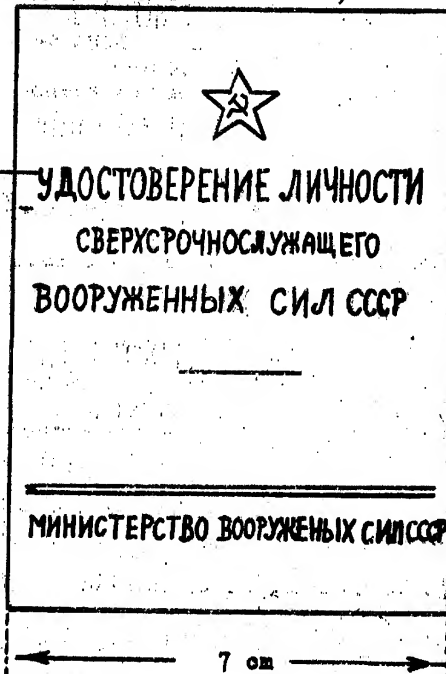
*Personal ID Book of "Sverkhstrochnik" of USSR Armed Forces

25X1



(Light Blue Cover)

25X1

**Notes:**

The ID book contained twelve pages with the following data:

<u>Page</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Inside cover	Bearer's photo stamped with unit stamp, bearer's signature, and date
1	Identification by name, unit, and CO's signature with date of issue
2 and 3	Date of birth, place of birth, nationality, year inducted, local military commissariat, date and order number of reenlistment, duty, duty MOS number, education, civilian specialty, marital status, family, location of family
4 and 5	Military promotions
6 and 7	Military service status
8	Civilian awards
9	Combat wounds and injuries
10	Permission to carry arms
11 and 12	Regulations concerning handling and use of personal ID of "sverkhstrochnik"

CONFIDENTIAL